THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such proposal has yet been received by Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(c) There is a plan for construction of new terminal building complex and associated facilities at civil enclave of Chandigarh airport subject to release of identified land by Ministry of Defence.

New look to IGI Airport

2594. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give a new look to the IGI Airport, before the Commonwealth Games, 2010;

(b) if so, the details of the modernisation plan; and

(c) how far this will help to improve the economic growth of the airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Joint Venture Company (JVC) is required to expand the airside capacity by adding a parallel runway with adequate taxiways for entry/ exit to the runway. JVC is also required to construct a new passenger terminal to cater to both the domestic and international passengers and also provide adequate parking space in addition to improving the access roads to the airport.

(c) As the Airports form the basic, infrastructure and the key economic drivers for the Travel, Tourism and Commerce industries, the development of airports will have a direct and indirect effect on the economic growth of the country.

Enquiry of cartels by Competition Commission of India

2595. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Competition Commission of India (CCI) is legally empowered to undertake enquiries of cartels, use of dominance and regulation of combination and acquisition;

(b) if so, whether CCI have probed the cartelisation of Jet-Sahara deal; and

(c) If so, the outcome of the enquiries of CCI and the action taken against Jet Airways under the Competition Act?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Following legal challenges to the Competition Act 2002, and rulings of the Supreme Court thereon, the Central Government has introduced a Bill in the Parliament for amendment of the Competition Act, 2002 with a view to enable functioning of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in a manner that is legally and constitutionally sustainable. As a consequence, the CCI has not yet become fully functional and has, therefore, not yet taken up exercise of statutory powers relating to enquiries of cartels, abuse of dominance and regulation of combinations and acquisition from the competition angle etc.

(b) and (c) As CCI is not yet fully functional, the question of undertaking enquiries in the Jet-Sahara deal does not arise.

Development of Cultural Exchange Programme

2596. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which Government have signed cultural agreements;

(b) the number of them with whom Government have developed cultural exchange programmes with remaining countries;

(c) the steps taken by Government to develop cultural exchange programmes with remaining countries;

(d) whether ample amount is earmarked for Indian Missions abroad to promote cultural ties with other countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether irregularities have been noticed in usage of such funds;

(g) if so, the details in this regard; and

(h) the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Government of India has entered into Cultural Agreements with 118 countries as given in the Statement (*See* below). Cultural exchange programmes have been developed with 86 of them.